

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A portable information terminal apparatus ~~having a collation function,~~ comprising:

~~an information input unit~~ a pressure sensitive sensor which has a detection surface adapted to be exposed to an outside of the apparatus, reads a fingerprint ~~that touches~~ placed on the detection surface, and generates fingerprint data;

a control unit which collates the fingerprint data ~~input from the information input unit~~ generated by the pressure sensitive sensor and permits operation of the portable information terminal apparatus;

a protection unit which comprises a film adapted to cover the detection surface and a frame holding the film, wherein the protection unit is movable between ~~which can move to a first position where~~ covering the detection surface of the pressure sensitive sensor ~~information input unit is covered~~ and a second position where exposing the detection surface ~~is exposed of the pressure sensitive sensor;~~ and

a moving mechanism which biases the protection unit to ~~a~~ the covering first position of the information input unit to cover the detection surface of the pressure sensitive sensor.

Claims 2-8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A portable information terminal apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the comprising:

a pressure sensitive sensor which has a detection surface adapted to be exposed to an outside of the apparatus, reads a fingerprint placed on the detection surface, and generates fingerprint data;

a control unit which collates the fingerprint data generated by the pressure sensitive sensor and permits operation of the portable information terminal apparatus;

a protection unit which includes a cover which that is pivotally attached by a hinge to a sensor window from which the detection surface of the pressure sensitive sensor is adapted to be exposed, wherein the protection unit is movable between a first position covering the detection surface of the pressure sensitive sensor and a second position exposing the detection surface of the pressure sensitive sensor; [[,]] and

an opening/closing button which can switch the protection unit between the first position and the second position ~~a closed state of the cover in order to cover the detection surface and an open state of the cover in order to expose the detection surface.~~

Claims 10-12 (Canceled).

13. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a movement detection unit which outputs a detection signal when the protection unit has been moved to the second position, and wherein the control unit inhibits and interrupts a
5 current controlling operation to enable another controlling operation when the detection signal is output by the movement detection unit.

14. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the film has a thickness which allows the pressure sensitive sensor to sense pressure applied by a stylus to be sensed through the film.

15. (New) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein when the protection unit is at the first position, inputting by handwriting using the stylus is enabled.

16. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the film comprises polyester.

17. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a movement detection unit which outputs a detection signal when the protection unit has been moved to the second position, and wherein the control unit activates the apparatus

5 when the detection signal is output from the movement detection unit.

18. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the film covers the detection surface of the pressure sensitive sensor entirely.

19. (New) An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a movement detection unit which outputs a detection signal when the protection unit has been moved to the second position, and wherein the control unit inhibits and interrupts a current controlling operation to enable another controlling operation when the detection signal is output by the movement detection unit.

20. (New) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the cover has a thickness which allows the pressure sensitive sensor to sense pressure applied by a stylus to be sensed through the cover.

21. (New) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein when the protection unit is at the first position, inputting by handwriting using the stylus is enabled.

22. (New) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the cover comprises polyester.

23. (New) An apparatus according to claim 9, further
5 comprising a movement detection unit which outputs a detection signal when the protection unit has been moved to the second position, and wherein the control unit activates the apparatus when the detection signal is output from the movement detection unit.

24. (New) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the cover covers the detection surface of the pressure sensitive sensor entirely.